

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for detecting the presence of contamination in a nucleic acid amplification reaction conducted on a sample, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 conducting a first nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample,
 - 4 wherein at least one first nucleic acid primer used in said first nucleic acid amplification reaction comprises a first portion that is complementary to a nucleic acid sequence in said sample, the amplification of which is desired, and a second portion that is not complementary to said nucleic acid sequence;
 - 8 conducting a second nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample
 - 9 wherein at least one second primer used in said second nucleic acid amplification reaction is complementary to said second portion; and
 - 11 detecting contamination in said sample as the presence of amplicon in said second nucleic acid amplification reaction.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said second portion is not complementary to any contiguous nucleic acid present in said sample prior to said first nucleic acid amplification reaction.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first nucleic acid amplification reaction is selected from the group consisting of PCR, Q-PCR, and reverse-transcriptase PCR.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said second nucleic acid amplification reaction is selected from the group consisting of PCR, Q-PCR, and reverse-transcriptase PCR.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said amplicon is detected by sequence-
2 specific nucleic acid probe capture.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second nucleic acid
2 amplification reactions are conducted simultaneously.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second nucleic acid
2 amplification reactions are conducted on DNA isolated from said sample.

1 8. A method for detecting contamination in a nucleic acid amplification
2 reaction conducted on a sample, comprising the steps of:

3 conducting a first nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample using
4 at least one chimeric primer comprising a template-specific sequence and a 5'
5 contamination detection sequence;

6 conducting a second nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample
7 using at least one primer that is substantially complementary to said contamination
8 detection sequence; and

9 detecting an amplicon produced in said second nucleic acid amplification
10 reaction, the presence of which being indicative of contamination in said sample.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said first nucleic acid amplification
2 reaction comprises two chimeric primers.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said second nucleic acid amplification
2 reaction comprises two primers that are complementary to said contamination
3 detection sequence.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said sample is a biological sample.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said sample is a stool sample.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein said amplification reaction is a
2 polymerase chain reaction.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is Q-
2 PCR.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is
2 reverse-transcriptase PCR.

*add
B3*